

SEPTEMBER RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE SEASON FACT SHEET

- The resident Canada goose population increased significantly during the 1980's and the early 1990's. The population peaked in the mid-late 1990's with over 250,000 geese in Virginia. The resident goose population has been steadily declining by ~10% annually since 1999 and the 2005 population estimate is ~131,000 resident geese in VA and over 1 million in the Atlantic Flyway.
- A September season was initiated in 1993 to help manage the population and to provide opportunities for waterfowl hunters. Resident goose seasons are designed to occur prior to the arrival of migrant geese, or in areas where fewer migrant geese are present. The first migrant geese begin to arrive in Virginia around September 25 each year.
- Special resident goose season are effective in managing populations in areas where hunting is allowed. Where hunting is not feasible, other options are necessary to mitigate conflicts. A 5-bird bag limit has been effective in controlling the population while still providing ample recreational opportunities for Virginia waterfowlers.

Year	Population Estimate *	September Harvest
1993	115,835 +/- 46%	2,316
1994	129,409 +/- 36%	3,464
1995	151,043 +/- 39%	5,500
1996	181,813 +/- 36%	10,000
1997	249,612 +/- 34%	10,500
1998	264,867 +/- 35%	12,200
1999	261,554 +/- 34%	12,800
2000	227,164 +/- 32%	13,400
2001	218,384 +/- 27%	11,800
2002	218,719 +/- 24%	14,300
2003	186,753 +/- 23%	14,800
2004	143,741 +/- 25%	Not Available until July
2005	131,089**	Not Applicable

* Population estimate based on 3 –year moving average ** Preliminary estimate

